

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Gary Bartsch

Michigan State University and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation extends a most cordial welcome to this 69th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Holiday Inn South Convention Center, 6820 South Cedar, Lansing (just south of I-96) in Lansing.

On behalf of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to the 69th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference. To both our returning and new participants, the program you will see over the next 4 days is an example of how the turfgrass industry supports the MTF's mission statement of Education, Extension, and Research for all who are involved with it. The highlight of this year's conference will be honoring the retirement of our long-time friend, Dr. Paul Rieke.

This conference would not happen without the remarkable partnership that occurs between MSU and MTF, and more importantly your participation. Your attendance shows how important learning is and how committed you are to face the many new challenges that lie ahead of you. The program is excellent. Each year the conference planning committee does an outstanding job of lining up topics and speakers. This year is no exception. In fact, it's getting harder to choose which topic to attend. Whether you learn new ideas in a school, a formal session, or by talking to fellow managers, when you return home and apply them, you will be increasing your professionalism, plus providing a better, healthier turf and environment for those who you serve.

In conclusion, I ask each member of the MTF to take the next step and get involved in your industry. There is no greater reward than volunteerism. You will be amazed at what you learn and the friends you will meet. Become an active member. Contact one of your MTF Board members to find out how to get involved in building a stronger MTF. Please, take advantage of everything this conference has to offer you.